

REMARKS

With the cancellation (without prejudice) of claims 20, 22 and 23 herein, claims 14 to 19, 21 and 24 to 29 are pending.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this amendment.

With respect to page two (2) of the Office Action, Applicants understand that copies of the certified copies of the priority documents, satisfying the requirements for a successful claim to foreign priority in conformance with 35 U.S.C. §119, were received at the U.S.P.T.O. from the International Bureau. Applicants therefore respectfully request acknowledgement of the receipt of the papers provided and subsequent perfection of the claim to foreign priority.

With respect to page two (2), claims 14 to 18, 20, 21, 26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Siemens & Halske Aktiengesellschaft, United Kingdom Patent 900,774.

Claim 14 relates to a thermoelectric component. Claim 14 comprises a first element, and a second element. Claim 14 provides that the first element and the second element are in contact with each other in an area of at least one contact point. Claim 14 further provides that at least in one vicinity of the contact point, at least one of the first element and the second element includes a ceramic material. While the rejections may not be agreed with, to facilitate matters, claim 14 has been rewritten such that at least in one vicinity of the contact point, the ceramic material includes a filler of one of Cr_3C_2 , FeCr, FeCrNi, ZrN, ZrC, TiN and graphite. Support for this feature in claim 14 may be found, for example, on page 4, lines 24 to 28 of the specification (and see canceled claims 22 and 23, for example).

Claim 29 relates to a method. Claim 29 recites the steps of providing a thermoelectric component, the thermoelectric component including a first element and a second element, the first element and the second element arranged in contact with each other in an area of at least one contact point, at least in one vicinity of the contact point, at least one of the first element and the second element including a ceramic material and arranging the thermoelectric component in one of a thermocouple configured to one of measure temperature and a Peltier element as one of a thermoelectric heating element and a cooling element. While the rejections may not be agreed with, to facilitate matters, claim 29 has been rewritten such that

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the ceramic material includes a filler of one of Cr_3C_2 , FeCr, FeCrNi, ZrN, ZrC, TiN and graphite.

The Siemens & Halske reference simply does not identically describe (or even suggest) the presence of any filler materials placed in a ceramic material, wherein the filler material are one of Cr_3C_2 , FeCr, FeCrNi, ZrN, ZrC, TiN and graphite. Similarly, Siemens & Halske does not provide a method pertaining to these filler materials. Since Siemens & Halske does not identically describe (or even suggest) the presence of these materials, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 14 and 29.

Claim 20 has been canceled, rendering the rejection moot for this claim.

Claims 15 to 18, 21 and 26 depend from claim 14, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 14.

With respect to page four (4), claims 14 to 21, 23 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bachman, United States Patent No. 2,981,775.

The Bachman reference does not identically describe (or even suggest) the presence of any filler materials placed in a ceramic material, in which the filler material are one of Cr_3C_2 , TiN, FeCr, FeCrNi, ZrN, ZrC, TiN and graphite. Similarly, Bachman does not provide a method pertaining to these filler materials. The Bachman reference describe the presence of ferrites at col. 2, lines 38 to 43, however applicants respectfully submit that ferrites are iron based substances mixed with oxygen. The Bachman reference does not provide for the presence of FeCr or FeCrNi. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections as to claims 14 and 29.

Claims 20 and 23 have been canceled rendering the rejection for these claims moot.

Claims 15 to 19 and 21 depend from claim 14, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 14.

With respect to page four (5), claims 14 to 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Anderson, United States Patent No. 4,032,371.

The Anderson reference does not identically describe (or even suggest) the presence of any filler materials placed in a ceramic material, wherein the filler material is one of Cr_3C_2 , FeCr, FeCrNi, ZrN, ZrC, TiN and graphite. Similarly, Anderson does not provide a method pertaining to these filler materials. The Anderson reference is limited to porous base bodies consisting of α or β -SiC or Titanium based material. Col. 3, lines 43 to 47 and Col. 6, lines 1

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to 6. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 14 and 29.

Claims 20 and 23 have been canceled rendering the rejection for these claims moot.

Claims 15 to 18, 21, 25 and 26 depend from claim 14, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 14.

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Siemens & Halske in view of Yajima et al. U.S. Patent 4,336,215.

The secondary Yajima reference does not cure the critical defects of the primary Siemens & Halske reference. Since Claims 18 and 19 depend from allowable claim 14, these claims are allowable for the same reasons as claim 14.

Accordingly, claims 14 to 19, 21 and 24 to 29 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the rejections have been obviated, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 14 to 19, 21 and 24 to 29 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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